DFG PRESENTATION on DAY 1 of the BDCP EFFECTS ANALYSIS
DELTA SCIENCE PROGRAM REVIEW (10/25/11)

- DFG has been involved in BDCP planning since early 2006.
- BDCP evolved out of CALFED as we were approaching the end of Stage 1.
- There arose a desire to create a new regulatory framework and conservation plan for the Delta that would lead to more stable conditions for the Delta ecosystem and water supplies.
- A Planning Agreement was signed in October 2006 by plan participants which describes these planning goals
- The BDCP is being prepared as a joint HCP/NCCP.
- An NCCP plan must provide for the conservation and management of covered species in the plan area.
- DFG has to make certain findings based on substantial evidence before approving a natural community conservation plan.
- The effects analysis on the BDCP must provide certain information we will need to make our findings
- NCCP necessary "findings" include (examples). The plan must show:
  - Plan provides for protection of habitat, natural communities, and species diversity on a landscape or ecosystem level within the plan area
  - Management of landscapes to maintain ecological integrity of large habitat blocks, ecosystem function and biological diversity.
  - Provide connectivity of habitat within the plan area and to adjacent habitat areas outside the plan area
  - Incorporate a range of environmental gradients
  - Sustain the effective movement and interchange of organisms between habitat areas
  - Use of best available scientific information in preparing the plan
  - The conservation strategy meets the biological needs of covered species, given consideration of the impacts of permitted activities

<u>Key Questions Regarding the BDCP Conceptual Foundation and Analysical Framework ("Roadmap")</u>

- Are the boundaries of the study area consistent with ecological principles, and the life histories of covered species?
- Does the Roadmap describe methods to evaluate changes in ecosystem processes and biological diversity?
- Does the Roadmap describe how it will evaluate connectivity of habitats within the Plan area and outside the plan area?
- Does the Roadmap incorporate the use of best available scientific information?
- Does the Roadmap describe how it will deal with scientific uncertainties, including alternative plausible outcomes?
- Are the limitations of the analytical methods clearly described?
- When using the "weight-of-evidence" approach to evaluating effects, is the evaluation and weighting of methods fair and appropriate? Do the analytical methods employed, ask and answer the pertinent questions?